

REMARKS

This Amendment is made in response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2007. Claims 1-33 were pending in this application. Previously, claims 23-31 were withdrawn from consideration in view of an election of species requirement. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8, 13, 17, 18, 21, 32 and 33 have been amended to better define the presently claimed invention. Claims 5, 16, 19, 20 and 22-31 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 34-41 are being presented for consideration. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claim 6 as having insufficient antecedent basis for certain terms originally appearing in claim 6. Applicants have amended claim 6 to provide proper antecedent basis for the terms used in this claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to claim 6.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,609,627 to Goicoechea (the "Goicoechea patent"). Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Goicoechea patent. Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 5, which includes, *inter alia*, the recitation of a radiopaque marker having a substantially V-shaped mounting region. Applicants note that the Goicoechea patent discloses a marker made from a gold or platinum wire 17 which is wrapped around the end of the stent 16 (Column 10, lines 52-56). This particular wire 17 does not have a substantially V-shaped mounting region as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the particular structure defined by claims 1-7, 32 and 33 is not disclosed in the Goicoechea patent. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of these claims based on the Goicoechea patent.

Claims 8-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Goicoechea patent in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,503,271 to Duerig et al. (the "Duerig patent"). Claim 8 has been amended to include the recitations of dependent claim 20, which also includes, *inter alia*, the recitation of a radiopaque marker having a substantially V-shaped mounting region. Applicants again note that the Goicoechea patent fails to disclose such a structure. Accordingly, the particular structure defined by claims 8-22 is not disclosed in the Goicoechea patent. The Duerig patent fails to disclose such a structure as well. Therefore, the combination of the Goicoechea patent and the Duerig patent fails to achieve the structure recited in claims 8-22. Applicants again respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of these claims based on the combination of the Goicoechea patent and Duerig patent.

New claims 34-41 are method claims directed to the manufacture of implantable medical devices. The new claims are believed to be patentable over the art of record. Favorable allowance of these new claims is also respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully urged that all of the present claims of the application are patentable and in a condition for allowance. The undersigned attorney can be reached at (310) 824-5555 to facilitate prosecution of this application, if necessary.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or credit
any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,
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